

EDITORIAL



W. Bessei Professor em. Farm Animal Ethology and Small Animal Science.

Contact:

werner.bessei@uni-hohenheim.de

Part I of this article has been dealing with the effect of management systems, including stocking density, group size and litter on performance, behaviour and welfare of commercial rabbits.

Part II describes possibilities and challenges of enrichment devices.

The author and his co-workers have shown in various experiments, that the knowledge of the natural behaviours of the rabbits is essential for the development and presentation of enrichment objects which are accepted by the animals.

Objects related to feeding behaviour seem to be particularly useful in this regard. Enrichment do usually not impair production and health but increase cost of production.

The experimental approach and conclusions of the present work may serve as template for studies on enrichment in other farm animals.



Werner Bessei
Editor